INTENDED USE

ELITEST MVV/CAEV is an Enzyme ImmunoAssay (EIA) for the detection of antibodies to Maedi Visna Virus (MVV) in sheep serum and Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Virus (CAEV) in goat serum.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

MVV and CAEV cause a slowly evolving disease of sheep or goat characterized by interstitial pneumonia, meningoencephalitis, indurative mastitis, and non suppurative arthritis. The infection has been reported to be of high prevalence in many countries but only some of the infected animals develop chronic progressive lesions and eventually die from the infection. The etiological agent is the prototype of the Lentiviridae family of the Retroviridae, and are collectively known as small ruminant lentiviruses (SRLV). The lentiviruses have the ability to evade the defense mechanisms of their natural host, thus causing persistent infection. The infected animals remain carriers of the virus for life, contributing to the propagation of the infection within flocks. Viral transmission occurs principally between the dam and her progeny, via the colostrum and milk. The degree of transmission between the dam and her offspring is high. In order to control the spread of the virus, the viral carriers have to be detected and eradicated as no vaccine or treatment is yet available. As most of the infected sheep or goat develop a humoral response, the demonstration of anti-virus antibodies by serological techniques is indicative of viral infection.

PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

The wells of polystyrene microplate strips have been coated with a synthetic peptide and a recombinant protein derived from MVV envelope and gag proteins, respectively. These coated proteins and peptides constitute the solid phase antigens. The test sample is incubated in the well and viral specific antibodies to the envelope and/or gag protein, if present in the sample, will bind to the solid phase antigens. Subsequently, an affinity-purified rabbit anti-sheep IgG (H + L chain) labelled with the enzyme horseradish peroxidase (HRP), is added (second antibody). Upon a positive reaction, this labelled antibody will bind to the antigen/antibody complex previously formed on the solid phase. Subsequent incubation with substrate produces a blue colour in the test well, which turns into yellow when the reaction is stopped with sulfuric acid. If the sample contains no antibodies, the labelled antibody will not bind specifically, and only a low background colour develops.

STORAGE AND STABILITY

1. If kept at 2°C to 8°C, all test reagents, including the coated test wells, are stable until the expiration date given on the pack.
2. All reagents and the sachet containing the test wells must be brought to room temperature (15-30°C) approximately 30 minutes before use and must be returned to the refrigerator immediately after use.
3. Unused test wells, stored at 2-8°C, are stable for 8 weeks if stored in the plastic minigrip bag with desiccant. Moisture adversely affects test performance. Hence, when the desiccant turns red, discard the remaining strips.
4. Diluted wash solution is stable for 2 weeks, if kept at 2-8°C.
5. Diluted conjugate is stable for 4 hours at room temperature (15-30°C) if kept in the dark.
6. Diluted substrate is stable for 1 hour at room temperature (15-30°C) if kept in the dark.
7. After using some of the contents of vials containing controls, sample diluent, concentrated conjugate, conjugate
diluent, concentrated substrate, substrate buffer, and concentrated wash solution, the contents are stable until the expiration date if kept at 2-8°C and stored in the closed original vial.

**MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED**

1. Distilled or deionized water.
2. Precision pipettes with disposable tip to deliver in the ranges 1-10μl, 20-200μl, and 200-1000μl, respectively.
3. Optionally a multichannel pipette to deliver 100 μl can be used together with disposable V-shaped troughs for addition of conjugate, substrate and sulfuric acid.
5. Incubator set at 37°C.
6. Microplate washer (alternatively, washing can be performed manually, e.g. by using a repeating syringe delivering 0.3 ml volumes and an aspirating device).
7. Absorbent tissues.
8. Photometric reading: microplate reader, equipped with a 450 nm filter and also with 595 nm filter (or alternatively 690 nm instead 595 nm).

**ASSAY PROCEDURE**

1. **Reagent And Sample Preparation**

   1) Allow all test material to reach room temperature (15-30°C) before use.
   2) Washing solution should be prepared by diluting concentrated wash solution (WS) (8) 1:25 with distilled water or deionized water, e.g. by diluting 20 ml to 500 ml. Prepare at least 50 ml of diluted wash solution for each strip.
   3) Make a 1:100 predilution of your samples and controls e.g. 4 μl serum in 400 μl sample diluent.
   4) Conjugate should be prepared by diluting concentrated conjugate (C) (5) 1:100 with conjugate diluent (CD) (4), e.g. by diluting 10μl to 1 ml per strip or 100 μl to 10 ml per plate.
   5) Substrate should be prepared by diluting concentrated TMB substrate (S) (6) 1:100 with substrate buffer (SB) (7), e.g. by diluting 10 μl to 1 ml per strip or 100 μl to 10 ml per plate.

2. **Assay Steps**

   Before starting the assay, adjust the temperature of the incubator to 37°C.
   1) Fill the strip-holder with the required number of strips, taking into account that one negative control and one positive control should be included. If more strips are used in one run, at least two negative and positive controls should be included in each strip holder. During the processing, strips stay in the strip holder and can be marked on one edge.
   2) Make a 1:100 predilution of your samples and controls e.g. 4 μl serum in 400 μl sample diluent. For milk samples use a dilution of 1:10. Do not use very small volumes of serum (e.g. 1 μl or less) to avoid pipetting errors.
   3) Add 80 μl of diluted to each test well.
   4) Add 20 μl of diluted sample or control to each appropriate test well.
   5) Cover the strips with an adhesive sealer. Incubate for 60 minutes at 37 °C.
   6) Wash each well 5 times (see Directions for washing).
   7) Add 100 μl prediluted conjugate solution to each well.
   8) Cover the strips with a new adhesive sealer. Incubate for 60 minutes at 37°C.
   9) Wash each well 5 times (see Directions for washing).
   10) Add 100 μl prediluted substrate solution to each well.
   11) Incubate for 30 minutes at 20-25°C.
   12) To stop the reaction, add 100 μl stop solution to each well, in the same sequence and at the same time intervals as the substrate solution. Tap the strip holder carefully to ensure thorough mixing.
   13) Read (within 15 minutes after step 12) the absorbance of the solution in the wells at 450 nm; 595 nm should be used as reference wavelength.

**INTERPRETATION**

1. **Abbreviations:**
   
   \[ P = \text{the mean of the absorbance of the positive controls} \\
   N = \text{the mean of the absorbance of the negative controls} \\
   S = \text{the mean of the absorbance of the test sample} \]
   
2. **Validation:**
   
   Check the validity of individual negative and positive controls (absorbance at 450-595 nm)
   
   a. Each of the negative controls should be ≤ 0.100.
   b. Calculate N excluding controls out of the range specified.
   c. Each of the positive controls should be within the range indicated on the flyer provided with the kit.
   d. Calculate P excluding controls of the range specified.
   
   If more than half of the controls have to be eliminated, the test run should be repeated after careful investigation into the source of possible errors.

3. **Test result:**
   
   a. Calculate the cut-off value as: \((P-N)/4+N\)
   b. A sample is NON-REACTIVE if \(S < (P-N)/4 + N\)
   c. A sample is REACTIVE if \(S \geq (P-N)/4 + N\)

**REFERENCES**


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